

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	Cuba	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED] 25X1A
SUBJECT	Meeting of the National Executive Committee of the PSP	DATE DISTR.	12 February 1953
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE: [REDACTED]

1. During the week 18-24 January 1953 the National Executive Committee of the Partido Socialista Popular (PSP--Cuban Communist Party) met to discuss the political problem facing the Party under the terms of the new Electoral Code. Joaquin ORDOQUI made a strong appeal after considerable discussion of the problem, and went on record as favoring a policy of non-registration by the PSP. ORDOQUI explained that he was adopting this position and recommending it because Arnaldo ESCALONA Almeida, who was also present at the meeting, had received what was described as reliable information, assuring him that the government was going to consider several propositions which Dr. Ramon GRAU San Martin had put before the government. These proposals have to do with the modification of the most important portions of the present Electoral Code, particularly those portions related to the direct vote and the percentage required for qualification as a legal party. According to ESCALONA's information, it is highly possible that the government will rewrite the Electoral Code on the basis of a three or four per cent figure. Arnaldo ESCALONA Almeida, who is president of the Juridical Committee of the PSP, spoke after ORDOQUI and expounded the same viewpoint. He stated that if the government will make these changes, as is hoped, the Party will have the opportunity to register honorably and will at the same time present itself before the public as the champion in the victorious fight against the unpopular Electoral Code. 1
2. The National Executive Committee condemned the Party members for their attitude toward the problem of obtaining signatures in opposition to the Electoral Code. The committee was concerned by the fact that this project has not gone as well as expected and additional efforts will have to be put forth to continue to obtain signatures for the protest petitions.
3. The National Executive Committee also discussed the course of action to be taken with respect to the recent police assault against the Communist-directed act of homage in honor of Lenin, which was celebrated in the Luyano Zone committee meeting hall. Permission to hold this meeting had previously been obtained from the Ministry of Government. The PSP, acting through its

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Juridical Committee and in the person of Dr. Arnaldo ESCALONA Almeida, will make a public protest against this police action and will attempt to file a demand against the government in court for indemnity. The basic issue to be argued on behalf of the PSP will be that one branch of the government acted arbitrarily and caused considerable damage to both property and persons, in spite of the fact that another branch of the government had previously given permission to conduct a peaceful meeting.

4. The union question on the agenda of this meeting concerned the announced strike of the textile and hennequen workers. Lazaro PENA reported that a strike had been threatened by the Executive Committee of the National Federation of the Textile Industry (non-Communist Confederacion de Trabajadores de Cuba, CTC). The Minister of Labor, Dr. SALADRIGAS, has written a letter to the Executive Committee of this union, asking it not to commit the error of starting a strike during the week of celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Jose Marti. SALADRIGAS in his letter stated that a strike at that particular time would be regarded by the government as politically inspired. The Minister of Labor promised that at the end of Marti week the textile problem would be solved. PENA commented that the officials of the union involved had pledged themselves to withhold the strike in compliance with SALADRIGAS' request but the union leaders had threatened to launch the strike on Monday, 2 February, if by that time the problem had not been solved. PENA stated that if the strike should develop, the labor leaders of the PSP would have to do everything possible to capitalize on the difficulties in the textile industry, taking advantage of the absence of Pascasio LINARES, Secretary General of the union in question, who is at present in prison on charges of terrorism. Lazaro PENA was commissioned to maintain contact with Evelio MIRANDA, Communist textile leader for Habana Province, Ildefonso ALBURQUERQUE, Felix GOMEZ, Hilda FELIPE, and Hilda MARTINEZ, all of whom are Communist leaders in the textile industry. The purpose of this is to assure Communist participation and direction, wherever possible, of any strike action to be taken.

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- 25X1A 1. Comment [REDACTED] The PSP failed to file a petition for registration before the deadline of 20 January 1953.

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